

In the Claims

✓
Please add new Claims 31-33.

A clean version of all the pending claims is submitted below:

- 1 1. A method of sending data from a transmit site to a receive site, the method comprising:
2 dividing a transmit data stream having a first bit rate into multiple data streams with each
3 of the multiple data streams having a bit rate which is lower than the first bit rate; transmitting
4 each of the multiple data streams over a plurality of RF channels, wherein at least one of the RF
5 channels serves a plurality of users; and recombining the multiple data streams at the receive site
6 to provide a receive data stream having a bit rate equal to the first bit rate.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein data is sent from the transmit site to a plurality of receive
2 sites.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein data is sent from a plurality of transmit sites to a receive
2 site.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein each of the multiple data streams are packetized.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4 further comprising:
2 establishing a plurality of virtual links over each RF channel between send and receive sites; and
3 distributing packets over the plurality of virtual links in a controlled fashion.
- 1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the controlled fashion is via load balancing.
- 1 7. The method of claim 5 wherein the controlled fashion takes into account scheduling

1 15. The method of claim 5 wherein the virtual links are established via a MAC-layer process.

1 16. The method of claim 1 wherein the channels correspond to RF channels transmitted via a
2 wireless signal path.

1 17. The method of claim 1 wherein the channels are carried over a CATV plant.
1

1 18. The method of claim 1 wherein the transmit and receive data streams are carried over an
2 optical fiber.

1 19. The method of claim 1 wherein each of the plurality of RF channels are adjacent in
2 frequency.

1 20. The method of claim 1 wherein each of the plurality of RF channels are not adjacent in
2 frequency.

1 21. The method of claim 1 wherein each of the plurality of RF channels are provided as
2 DOCSIS channels.

1 22. The method of claim 21 wherein each of the plurality of DOCSIS channels are compatible
2 for use with legacy DOCSIS users.

1 23. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the channels which carries one of the
2 multiple data streams also carries data used by at least one other user, wherein the at least one
3 other user only uses that channel.

1 24. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the channels which carries one of the
2 multiple data streams also carries data used by at least one other user, wherein the at least one

- 3 plurality of RF channels, wherein each of the plurality of RF channels correspond to RF channels
- 4 carried over an RF cable and wherein each of the plurality of RF channels is provided having a
- 5 different carrier frequency.